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## **Beck Road Interchange Restored**

### *Legislators Praise Decision*

**(LANSING)** – Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) and state Rep. Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) announced today that an agreement has been made between the Republican controlled legislature and the Governor to restore state funding for the I-96/Beck Road interchange.

“After years of preparation, numerous economic investments, and a \$6 million bond approved by Novi voters, we are just elated that funding for this crucial project has been restored,” said Cassis. “There is so much at stake in rebuilding this interchange. From health, safety, and economic development standpoints, it is critical to the Novi community that this project be completed.”

“Senator Cassis has been instrumental in pressuring MDOT to improve this dysfunctional interchange; we have been working hard together to get this fixed for the citizens of Novi,” said DeRoche. “This road project has been in the works for years. When MDOT asked Novi residents to partially pay for this project, we delivered. I am pleased MDOT responded when residents and community leaders asked the department to live up to its commitment.”

The funds for the Beck Road interchange will come from \$200 million allocated to the Michigan Department of Transportation’s Five Year Road and Bridge Plan through bond adjustments. Cassis and DeRoche learned of the additional money when MDOT Director Gloria Jeff announced it at a Michigan Transportation Commission Meeting in June.

“When the announcement was made that there would be extra funding allocated toward road projects, we immediately reiterated that the Beck Road interchange fit the department’s

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description of a priority project to a tee, and we are so glad that the department recognized this as well,” said Cassis.

Cassis and DeRoche were shocked in April to learn that the Beck Road interchange project was among the 34 road projects MDOT deferred from the department’s five year plan in favor of the Granholm administration’s “Preserve First” initiative.

In 1997, when Cassis served as state representative and DeRoche sat on the Novi City Council, she amended the MDOT budget to add a study of the Beck Road interchange. Two years later, after working with DeRoche and other community leaders, she guided the project’s inclusion into the Five Year Road and Bridge Plan.

Both legislators have been working tirelessly to make sure the project moves forward.

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